PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #:	P.G.	# 79-53		Βι	uilding Da	te: _	1927		
Building	Name: _	County	Jail	· 					
Location:	14811	Pratt	Street,	Upper	Marlboro,	Mary	land		

Public/Government/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The County Jail is a small two-story brick building, constructed in the form of a fortress. It has a flat roof, and is three bays by one bay, with the principal three-bay facade facing roughly north on Pratt Street. Entrance is in the central bay of this principal facade; it is surmounted by a decorative fan, composed of five concentric courses of gray stone blocks. This entrance is sheltered by a one-story temporary entry vestibule. The single sash windows on the first story have molded stone block sills and lintels. Windows in the second story are triple-sash, one pane each, and round-arched, and are surmounted by double arches of brick. At second level, the single bays of east and west facades, as well as the central bay of the north facade, are filled by double round-arched windows. All windows are barred. The corners of the building project slightly to suggest corner towers. At the roofline, there is a shallow parapet of smooth gray stone. The facades are embellished with string courses of the same gray stone. Above the second story windows is a dentilled projecting string course of smooth stone; running through the line of the second story windows is a lower string course of molded stone blocks. The foundation of the building is defined by large blocks of the same stone. To the rear of the building is a two-story flat-roofed brick addition, and behind it, a larger threestory brick addition. The entire complex is surrounded by a high security fence.

<u>Significance</u>

The Marlboro Jail was constructed in 1927 to replace the old brick jail building which stood at approximately the same site. It is an unusual example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The first jail building was constructed shortly after Upper Marlboro was established as the County seat in 1721; it burned to the ground in 1750. It was replaced by a brick structure in the following year, and rebuilt in 1800, using materials from the 1751 structure. This building was repaired in 1823, and was still standing in the 1920's. After storm damage in 1923, there was pressure to construct a new jail building. In April 1927, the General Assembly authorized bonds of \$40,000 to build and equip a County Jail Building in Upper Marlboro, and construction began in that year. The new jail resembled a miniature fortress, and was an unusual example in Prince George's County of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. In the years since its construction it has had numerous additions, principally the two-story extension in the 1950's, and the major three-story addition completed in 1977. The original 1927 section is the smallest, and is partly hidden and dwarfed by the additions.

Acreage: 1.75 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE __yes __no

Magi No.

1. Nam	1e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic Cou	nty Jail			
and/or common	lboro Jail			
	ation			
street & number	, 14811 Pratt Str	eet	·	_ not for publication
city, town	Upper Marlboro	vicinity of	congressional district	5
state	Maryland	county	Prince George's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered Xnot applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted X no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainmentX government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names a	nd mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name Pri	nce George's County			
street & number	14741 Gov. Ode	n Bowie Drive	telephone no	.:
city, town	Upper Marlboro	state	and zip code MD.	20772
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.	Maryland State Arch	i ves	liber NN
street & number				folio 473
city, town	Annapolis,		state	MD.
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surve	ys
title	None			
date	-		federal state	county local
epository for su	urvey records			
city, town			state	
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

7.	Description	Survey	No.	P.G.

Condition excellent deteriorated X good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date of move	
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#79-53

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The County Jail is a small two-story brick building, constructed in the form of a fortress. It has a flat roof, and is three bays by one bay, with the principal three-bay facade facing roughly north on Pratt Street. The central bay of this principal facade consists of an entrance on the first story and a double window at second level. The entrance is surmounted by a decorative fan, composed of five concentric courses of gray stone blocks. This entrance is sheltered by a one-story temporary entry vestibule.

The single sash windows on the first story have molded stone block sills and lintels. Windows in the second story are triple-sash, one pane each, and round-arched, and are surmounted by double arches of brick. At second level, the single bays of east and west facades, as well as the central bay of the north facade, are filled by double round-arched windows. All windows are barred.

The corners of the building project slightly to suggest corner towers. At the roofline, there is a shallow parapet of smooth gray stone. The facades are embellished with string courses of the same gray stone. Above the second story windows is a dentilled projecting string course of smooth stone; running through the line of the second story windows is a lower string course of molded stone blocks. The foundation of the building is defined by large blocks of the same stone.

To the rear of the building is a two-story flat-roofed brick addition which covers the south facade of the building. A larger three-story addition extends the jail building south as far as the access road from Douglass Street. The entire complex is surrounded by a high security fence.

8. Sig	nificance		Survey No. P.G	. #79-53
Period prehistor 1400–149 1500–159 1600–169 1700–179 1800–189 X 1900–	99 archeology-historic 99 agriculture 99X architecture 99 art	check and justify below	law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify
Specific dat	es 1927	Builder/Architect	unknown	Local History
_	and/or —	BCD ABCD	E _ F _ G	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Level of Significance: national state local

The Marlboro Jail was constructed in 1927 to replace the old brick jail building which stood at approximately the same site. It is an unusual example of Romanesque Revival architecture.

The first jail building was constructed shortly after Upper Marlboro was established as the County seat in 1721; it burned to the ground in 1750. It was replaced by a brick structure in the following year, and rebuilt in 1800, using materials from the 1751 structure. This building was repaired in 1823, and was still standing in the 1920's. In 1923, during a severe storm, the roof of the jail was blown off, and prisoners had to be transferred to another building. The roof was replaced, but there was soon pressure to construct a new jail building. Finally, in April 1927, the General Assembly authorized bonds of \$40,000 to build and equip a County Jail Building in Upper Marlboro. Construction began in that year; jail space in Charles County was rented during the period of construction.²

The new jail resembled a miniature fortress, and was an unusual example in Prince George's County of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. In the years since its construction it has had numerous additions, principally the two-story south extension in the 1950's, and the major threestory addition completed in 1977. The original 1927 section is the smallest, and is partly hidden and dwarfed by the additions.

Notes

- 1 L. J. Hienton, Prince George's Heritage, Maryland Historical Society, 1972, pp. 121-132; Prince George's County Court Records, 1800-1825.
- Prince George's County Commissioners Records, 1917-1928

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #79-53

cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographica	l Data		
Acreage of nominated property 1.75 Quadrangle name Bristol, Summary	ection D		#101, parcel 88 adrangle scale
A Zone Easting Northing		B Zone Easting	Northing
C		D	
Verbal boundary description and j	ustification		
List all states and counties for pro	operties overlapping	-	daries code
state	code cou	nty	code
11. Form Prepare	ed By		
name/title Susan G. Pearl			
organization Historic Prese	rvation commissi	on date Ma	rch 1986
-/- D1 '			
street & number C/O Planning	Division, M-NCPP	C telephone	952-3521

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

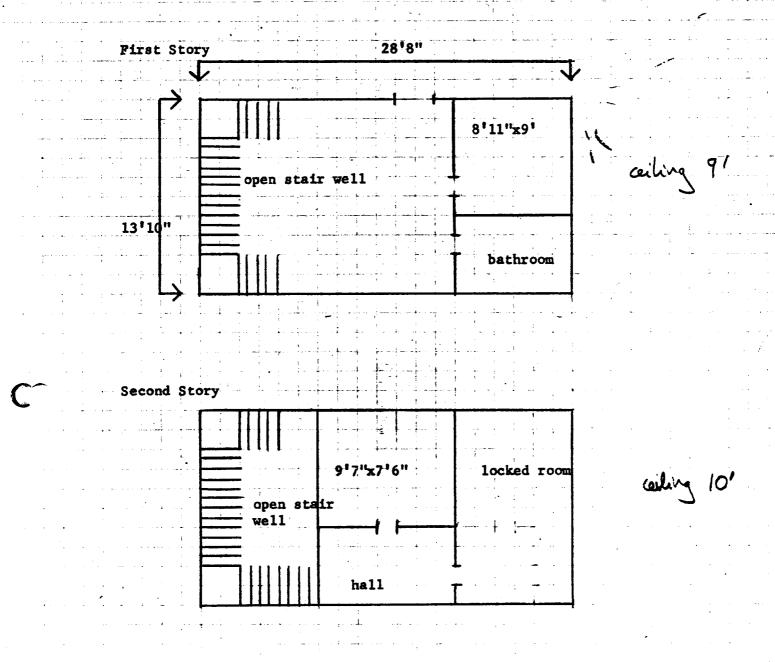
Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438



M. King 7/86

AROUND THE REGION

Pr. George's Jail Demolition Angers Preservationists

Preservationists in Prince George's County are bitter that they were not given time to save the county's 60-year-old jail in Upper Marlboro, which fell to a wrecking ball a day ahead of schedule.

The county decided to tear down the structure Friday and deemed the decision nonnegotiable, prompting a last-minute lobbying effort by history and architecture enthusiasts who wanted the jail to stay intact.

A team of preservationists and Chamber of Commerce leaders, who had been fighting since June to save the 1927 structure, rushed to County Executive Parris Glendening's office when they heard the news Friday afternoon.

But they were too late.

"I looked out the window and couldn't believe it," said W.C. Dutton of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce. "They had already knocked it down."

Glendening's spokesman, Tim Ayers, said the building was demolished one day ahead of schedule to avoid a demonstration planned by the group.

Dutton said he and others were going to lie down in front of the bulldozers and other demolition equipment in an effort to save the jail.

County officials said they were determined to destroy the jail because of their commitment to no longer house prisoners in Upper Marlboro. John Wesley White, the city's chief administrative officer, said that if the jail remained, a court order could have forced the county to house prisoners there.

URLENT REQUEST:

3/13/87 9:15am

From Gail Rothrode (952-3520)

requests JRL call Co Exac Paris Glendonning (952-4131)

TODAY to stay demolitum (schululed for truming) of

"OLD MARLOORO, JAIL" (PG: 79-53)

just in last week, Found and intect -

Tresdone Weill Pretsch (assure w/ Simmon; firm active in Baltimme)

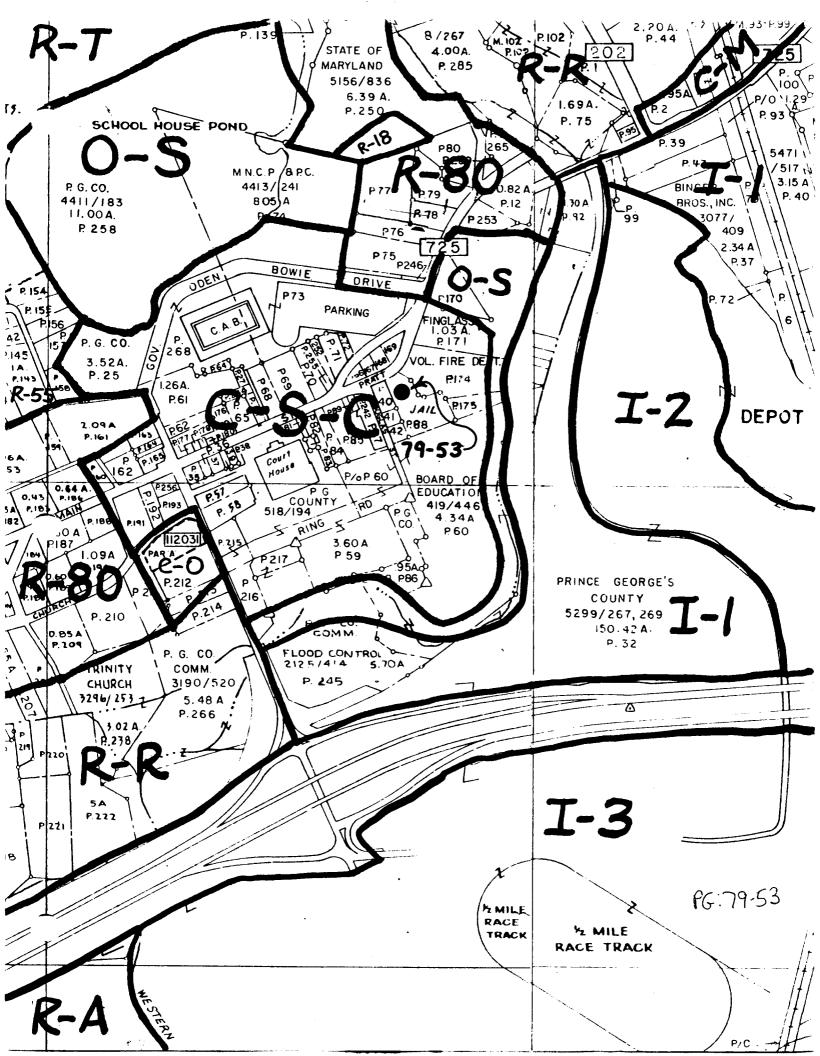
Why save?)

* An other bolly humm by him outside commence baltime - thus signif.

* Charter of Consider interested in adaptively-re-using bldg (contact is Bud Datton from Charter)

6/89 now 3 parts 1927 / 2 not section / 1920s-rean - want to consent to day care center_ this will stay.

No rre quando derno of central rechin. But want to save oldert sect. * Gail his architect's renderings of what this would look the preserved (separate) * Conty roads left doesn't nort to retain hilly because too close to road.





PG#79-53

Marlboro Jail
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#79-53

Marlboro Jail
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD